

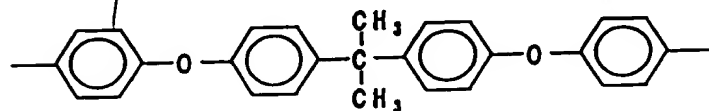
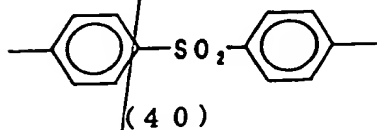
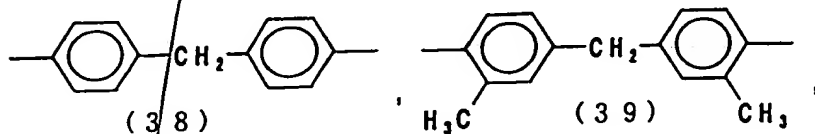
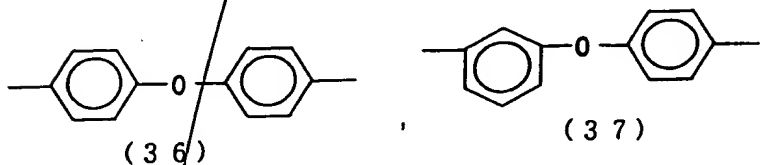
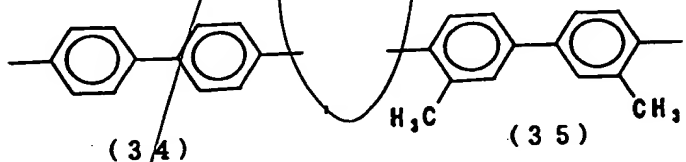
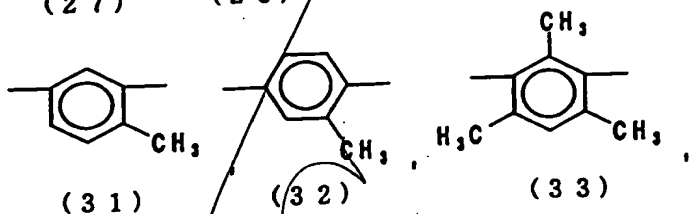
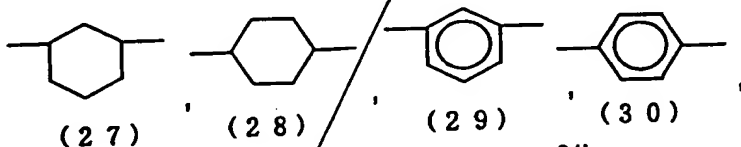
-- **Claim 3.** (Amended)

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1  
polymer is polyamide. --

... where said

-- **Claim 5.** (Amended)

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 3, where R<sup>10</sup> or R<sup>11</sup> in the general formula (18) above or R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> in the general formula (19a) and (19b) are independently of each other radical selected from the formula (27) – (41) below



( 4 1 ) --

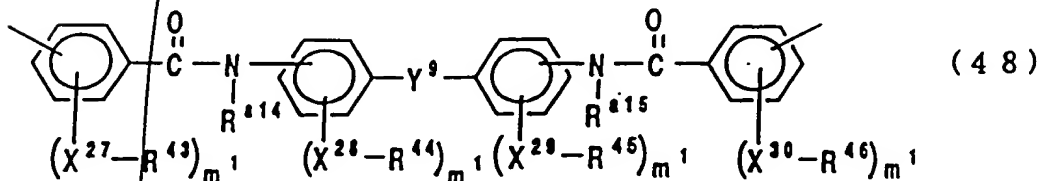
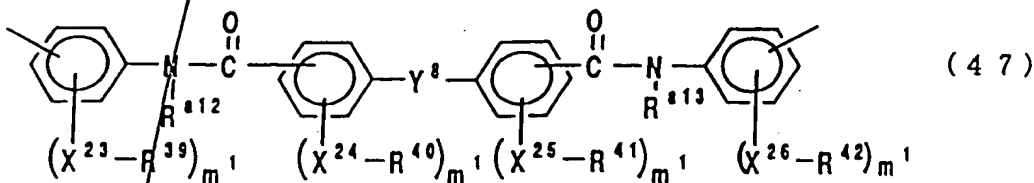
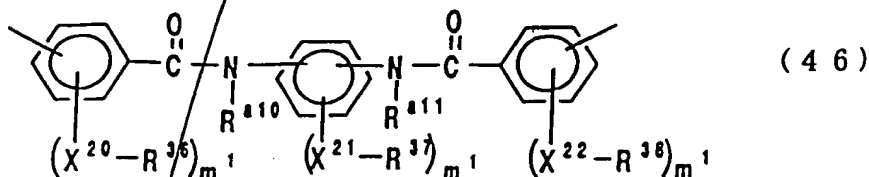
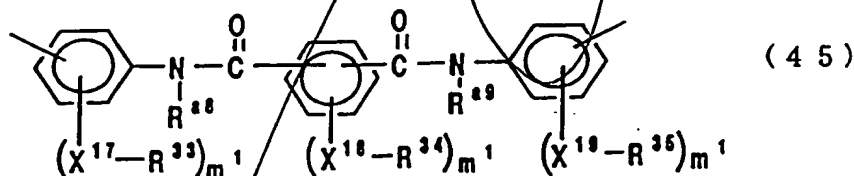
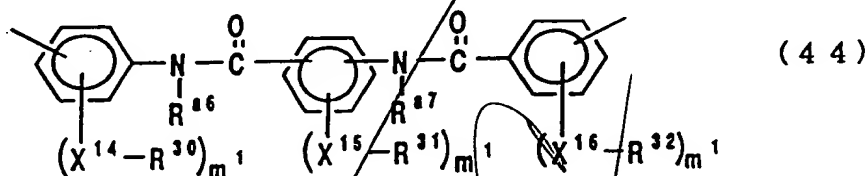
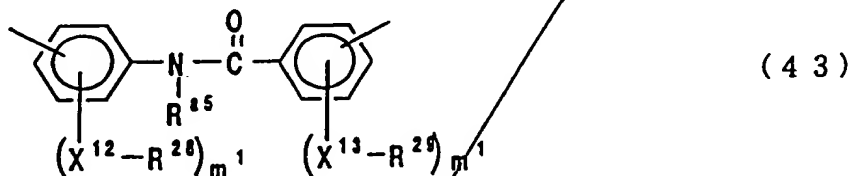
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-- Claim 6. (Amended)

a2 Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1, where said polymer compound is polyimide precursor or polyimide obtained by chemical or heat imidization of said polyimide precursor.--

-- Claim 8. (Amended)

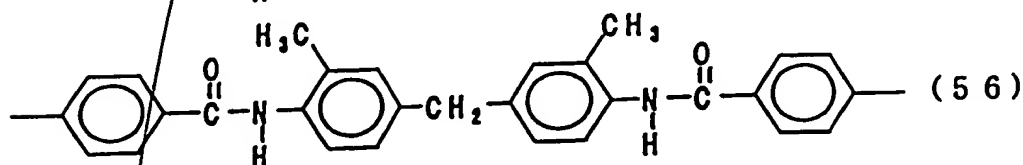
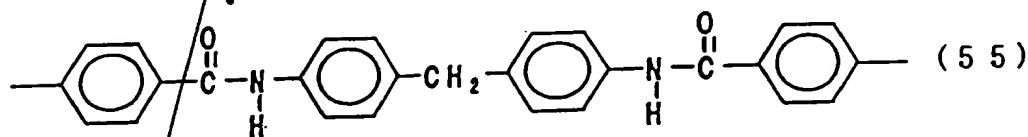
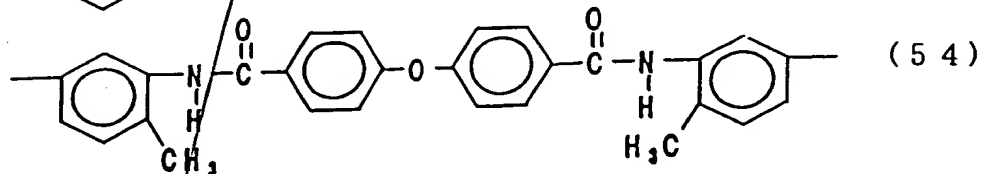
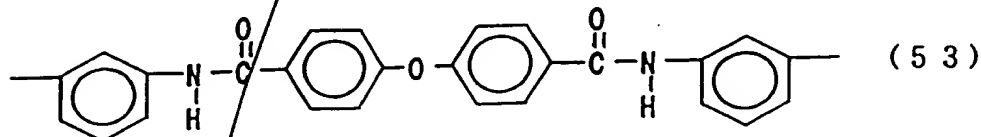
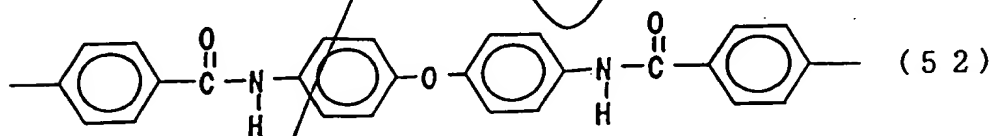
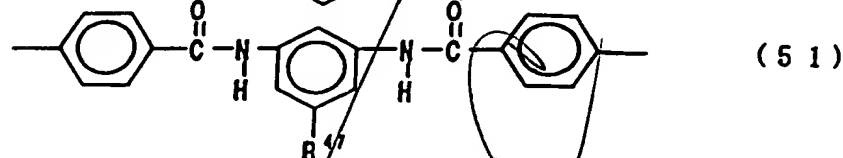
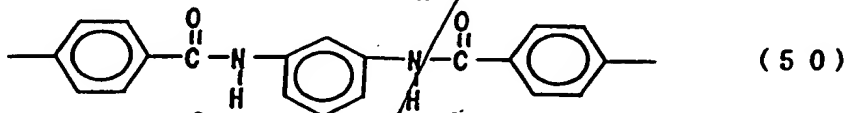
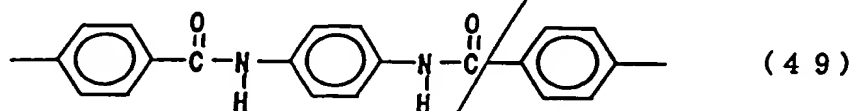
Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 6, where  $R^{27}$  in the general formula (42a) and (42b) above is selected from the general formula (43) - (48) below



wherein  $X^{12} - X^{30}$  are independently of each other single bond, O, CO<sub>2</sub>, OCO or CH<sub>2</sub>O; R<sup>28</sup> - R<sup>46</sup> are independently of each other hydrogen, halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl containing fluorine, aryl, propargyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl; R<sup>a5</sup> - R<sup>a15</sup> are independently of each other hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl or propargyl; Y<sup>8</sup> and Y<sup>9</sup> are O, S, SO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>, NH, NHCO or CONH<sub>2</sub>, and m<sup>1</sup> is an integer of 1 - 4 with the proviso that R<sup>28</sup> - R<sup>46</sup> are hydrogen or halogen, then X<sup>12</sup> - X<sup>30</sup> are single bond. ---

-- **Claim 9.** (Amended)

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 6  
, where radical for R<sup>27</sup> in the general formula (42a) and (42b) above is  
selected from in the formula (49) - (56) below



wherein R<sup>47</sup> is halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkoxycarbonyl. --

-- Claim 10. (Amended)

a3 Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1, where said polymer compound is polyurethane. --

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-- Claim 12. (Amended)

a4 Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1, where said polymer compound is polyurea. --

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-- Claim 14. (Amended)

Liquid crystal device by the use of the liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1. --

a5 -- Claim 15. (Amended)

Alignment method of liquid crystals characterized by the use of the liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1, where light or electron rays being irradiated over the thin polymer film formed on the surface of the substrate and achieving liquid crystal alignment without rubbing action. --

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